

Washington, DC — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) officially welcomed Angela Gill to Washington DC as a congressional page yesterday. Angela was nominated by Blumenauer and will serve --in the nation's capital through January, 2004.

Becoming a congressional page is not easy. Only 66 high school juniors are selected each year from throughout the country. These students must have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average in major subjects and demonstrate that they are mature, flexible and have a strong work ethic.

"We are thrilled and very fortunate to have Angela with us here in Washington," said Blumenauer. "She's a terrific ambassador for Oregon and a delightful person to work with."

As a congressional page, Angela lives in the official Page Residence Hall near the Capital in Washington, D.C. She attends four hours of classes each morning with other pages before reporting to work for members of Congress in the afternoon and evening. It's a demanding program that requires highly motivated and committed students, but it is also tremendously rewarding and exciting.

Although pages have helped out lawmakers since the first days of the Republic, Congress instituted the tradition of nominating pages for appointment in 1855. Members of Congress may nominate pages only upon invitation of their party's Leadership. Blumenauer has been invited to nominate pages twice during his tenure in Congress.